



GLOBAL  
**TRANSFORMATION AGENDA**  
FOR A WATER SECURE WORLD

# GWP GOVERNANCE REFORM

## GWP Network Meeting

15 January 2026

**Phase 2: Streamlining GWP Governance for Impact and Sustainability**  
**Proposed amendments to the GWP & GWPO Statutes.**

# BACKGROUND

- The GWP-GWPO Governance structure was established in 2002 and remained unchanged except for minor incremental statutory updates introduced in 2011.
- In 2023, the GWP Governance Review by Judith Sargentini, building on several previous reports, consolidated the key challenges in the current governance structure and provided recommendations to streamline the GWP-GWPO governance.

# KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2023 GWP GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- Overlaps in the mandate of the governance bodies (Sponsoring Partners, Steering Committee and Network Meeting) were identified, that cause duplication and slower decisions.
- The current size of the GWP Steering Committee, with 21 members, presents challenges to maintain strategic agility.
- Representation of Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs) on the GWP Steering Committee can create situations where fiduciary responsibilities require careful management.
- The role of the GWP Technical Committee is not defined in the current Statutes, often seen as detached from the GWP-GWPO Network and decisions.
- The unclear legal boundaries between GWPO and RWPs in the current Statutes poses liability risks.
- GWP Partners (over 2800), development finance partners, have no clear representation in decision making organs of GWP

# GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA TO IMPLEMENT GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- In Feb 2025, the GWP Steering Committee launched the Global Transformation Agenda, to among others-implement the recommendations GWP governance Review and develop a new GWP Strategy for 2026-2030.
- In May 2025, initial changes were made to the GWP-GWPO Statutes to enable GWPO decentralization and relocation of GWPO HQ to any country outside Stockholm.
- In August 2025, a new GWP Strategy was launched, embedding the Global Transformational Agenda as a core part of the Strategy for 2026-2030

# STRUCTURAL REFORM CHANGES TO THE GWP-GWPO STATUTES

*Structural reform changes to GWP-GWPO governance were not addressed in the Statutory amendments of May 2025, to allow for any inputs from the outcome of the GWP External Evaluation, more consultations with GWP Sponsoring Partners, GWP Steering Committee, Finance Partners and development of a new GWP Strategy for 2026-2030*

## GWP STRATEGY LAUNCHED EMBEDDING THE GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION, EXTERNAL EVALUATION HAILS GWP PERFORMANCE

- In August 2025, a new GWP Strategy was launched, embedding the Global Transformational Agenda as a core part of the new Strategy 2026-2030.
- In October 2025, the GWP Sponsoring Partners informal consultative meeting endorsed the proposal to proceed with Phase 2 of the amendments to the Statutes.
- In November 2025, the GWP Steering Committee approved a decision for convening a GWP Partners Network Meeting to vote on the proposed amendments to the Statutes.
- In December 2025, the GWP External Evaluation of the Strategy for 2020-2025 was released by SIDA with strong positive GWP performance review & endorsement of the new GWP Strategy and Transformational agenda.

## EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE GWP STRATEGY 2020-2025 REINFORCED THE GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen system-wide governance & coherence across GWPO, RWPs and CWP.
2. Clarify roles, mandates & accountability mechanisms, ensuring clear authority lines.
3. Enhance oversight, fiduciary controls, risk management & compliance frameworks.
4. Reinforce GWPO institutional capacity to lead, coordinate and enforce standards.
5. Improve Steering Committee strategic governance, dashboards, and oversight tools.

***Overall: Move toward a unified 'One GWP' model with stronger accountability and alignment***

# STATUTORY REFORM OBJECTIVES

*Establish a single, inclusive, lean, coherent and modern GWP–GWPO governance system consistent with global standards for intergovernmental organisations:*

- Unify GWP-GWPO governance under one General Assembly-as the GWP highest decision-making body
- Align GWP's governance with stakeholders and GWP Partners expectations including Finance Partners
- Transition the **GWP Steering Committee** into a lean, agile and efficient **GWP Board** to guide GWP policy, strategic decision-making and enhance oversight
- Clarify legal independence of RWPs and enhance accountability
- Simplify reporting and accountability lines.
- Enhance governance efficiency of GWP global governance

# **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GWP-GWPO STATUTES WILL LEAD TO A STREAMLINED, LEAN, EFFICIENT & INCLUSIVE GWP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

## AMENDMENTS WILL LEAD THE FOLLOWING INCLUSIVE, STREAMLINED, GWP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

*The Proposed Amendments to the current GWP & GWPO Statutes will lead to the following streamlined efficient and inclusive GWP Governance Structure:*

- **GWP General Assembly** – Highest decision-making body, merging Sponsoring Partners, 13 RWPs and Partners Network Meeting following a constituency model including development finance partners
- **GWP Board** appointed by the General Assembly, streamline the GWP Steering Committee from 21 to 9–11 independent members overseeing policy, strategy, finance, HR, programmes and audit. The Board will 4 Board Subcommittees:
  - (i) Finance & Audit; (ii) Programmes; (iii) Governance, HR & Ethics; (iv) Technical Advisory Committee.
- **GWP Secretariat** – accountable to GWP Board led by GWP Executive Secretary

# BENEFITS OF THE AMENDMENTS

- ✓ Stronger intergovernmental legitimacy.
- ✓ Simplified decision-making and clearer roles.
- ✓ Enhanced accountability and donor confidence.
- ✓ Clear accountability between the intergovernmental organisation, (GWPO) and the regional entities (RWPs).
- ✓ Representation of GWP Partners in the highest decision-making organs via the General Assembly

# **ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE SUMMARY OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GWP-GWPO STATUTES**

# RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

## ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 2 – Objectives:** Aligns the mission of the Organisation with the GWP Strategy 2026–2030, explicitly reflecting a focus on financing, governance, and climate-resilient water security, while preserving the vision of a water-secure world.
- **Article 5 – Organic Structure:** Clarifies the institutional structure by establishing the General Assembly and the GWP Board, replacing fragmented governance arrangements.
- **Article 6 – Chair:** Aligns the role of the Chair, appointed by the General Assembly, with the revised governance structure.
- **Article 7 – GWP Board:** Replaces the Steering Committee with a streamlined Board of 9–11 members appointed by the General Assembly

# RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

## ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 8 – Nomination Committee:** Aligns nomination and appointment processes with the authority of the General Assembly.
- **Article 9 – General Assembly:** Establishes the General Assembly as the highest decision-making body, with constituency-based representation for GWP Partners including development finance partners
- **Article 10 – Sponsoring Partners:** Integrates the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners into the General Assembly framework, preserving approval roles.

# RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

## ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 11 – Executive Secretary:** Clarifies accountability to the GWP Board and reporting to the General Assembly.
- **Articles 14–15 – Finance and Audit:** Align financial oversight and audit functions with the revised governance structure.
- **Articles 16–17 & 20 – Dissolution, Withdrawal, Depositary:** Ensure internal consistency following the governance changes related to the role of the General Assembly and the GWP Board